



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (MVT)

The following guidelines are based on standards from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR) program, within the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center, collects statistical information on 99 criminal offenses from all law enforcement agencies in Michigan. The data is then forwarded to the NIBRS program and published in the FBI's annual *Crime in the U.S.* and the *Crime in Michigan* annual report.

The Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) was created through PA 174 in 1992. The ATPA provides financial support to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, and neighborhood community organizations throughout Michigan, in an effort to reduce auto theft. In assessing the scope of auto theft and economic auto theft-related crimes, it is important for all agencies submitting data to MICR to ensure proper compliance with the reporting components of auto theft. As the ATPA combat's auto theft in Michigan, the information that is submitted to MICR is paramount in preparing future programs and asset placement.

MVT is defined as the theft of a motor vehicle that runs on land (not on rails), where its primary purpose is to transport people. This does **not** include tractors, riding lawn mowers, etc.

NOTE: A sequential file class of MVT should **not** be added when the following instances occur:

Robbery is defined as the taking, or attempting to take, anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

A carjacking is classified as a Robbery (1270), **not** a motor vehicle theft. The theft of the motor vehicle occurred as the result of the robbery/carjacking.

Burglary is defined as unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or theft.

Example: A vehicle owner awakens to find his/her vehicle taken from inside the garage. The owner states that the garage door was closed but the side entry door was left unlocked. This should be classified as a Burglary-Non-Forcible Entry (2204 or 2205), **not** a MVT. The theft of the motor vehicle is a result of the Breaking and Entering.

Fraud is defined as the intentional perversion of the truth for the purpose of inducing another person, or entity, in reliance upon it to part with something of value, or to surrender a legal right.

Example: Failure to Return - At an airport rental company, a 2013 Chevy was rented for a week. A credit card was tendered as payment. A week later the vehicle is not returned and the rental company found out the credit card had been reported stolen. This is submitted as an original incident in an agency's Records Management System (RMS) as a Fraud-False Pretense (2674) and a Fraud-Credit Card (2605). In this case, the individual had signed a contract and agreed to return the rental vehicle and did not comply with the contract.

If a motor vehicle is stolen and entered into an agency's RMS as such, and later determined to be a fraud, the offense file class should be changed to a fraud offense and resubmitted through the RMS to MICR.

A false report of an auto theft would originally be submitted through an agency's RMS as a MVT (2400). If the investigation determines that the MVT did not occur, the incident would be closed as Unfounded. In addition, a **new** incident would be created in the RMS for Filing a False Police Report (4803).



Agencies are encouraged to utilize the Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) HEAT® tip line at (800) 242-HEAT which allows callers to provide confidential information and receive rewards up to \$10,000.

For clarification on the above, or if you have additional questions, please contact:

Ms. Monica Jenkins
Michigan State Police
Criminal Justice Information Center
Statewide Records Management Section
Michigan Incident Crime Reporting
JenkinsM9@michigan.gov
517-241-1880